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110 Evans Road  
Brighton MA 02135

December 6, 1999

Donna Shalala, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I understand that the FDA is considering eliminating the labeling requirement for foods treated with radiation. This is to protest any such move. I have the right to know what has been done to the food I eat, and agribusiness is putting enough restrictions on labeling now. Unless I buy organic, which is more expensive, I have no way of knowing what foods may have antibiotics or growth hormones in them. People are just now beginning to realize that use of antibiotics in feed may be one cause of increasing antibiotic resistance, which renders a lot of medicines less potent than they should be – and increases health costs. .

We know that high level radiation exposure is deadly. I don't think we know yet what the effect of long term low level radiation exposure is. We need to wait for many years (as with the antibiotic effect) before we will really know. Until then, we should err on the side of caution. If people want to buy irradiated foods, that's fine. But the ability to choose should be left in place, and this requires prominent labeling.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Naomi B. Isler

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